

PPOVA Updates September 2008



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Thank you for subscribing to "PPOVA Updates," a service that provides updates about opportunities posted on Virginia's FREE healthcare recruitment website, [Primary Practice Opportunities of Virginia](#).

New Opportunities Posted in August

For a detailed description, visit PPOVA and [search by specialty or location](#).

Position Number	Location	Date Posted
FNP7085	Honaker	8/4/08
FP1256	Fort Belvoir	8/5/08
PA10044	New Castle	8/19/08
FNP7087	New Castle	8/20/08
URO31009	Wytheville	8/25/08
PUL3900	Wytheville	8/25/08
EM25008	Wytheville	8/25/08
CRD15005	Wytheville	8/25/08
FP1257	Weyers Cave	8/27/08
FP1258	Saltville	8/27/08

Positions Filled in August

Position Number	Location
GS18009	Wytheville
IM2062	Roanoke
OB3037	Wytheville
ORT30008	Wytheville

Upcoming Events

September 10

[Substance Abuse in Rural America](#)
Webinar

September 22-23

Virginia's 2008 Rural Summit
Lynchburg, VA

October 14-17

[Critical Access Hospital Conference](#)
Savannah, GA

[View more events on our calendar](#)

Recruitment and Retention Collaborative Team Updates

Virginia SEARCH Programs to Close

On July 29, 2008 Dr. Elizabeth Duke, Administrator of the federal Health and Human Services Administration (HRSA) announced the termination of the Student Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) program. A program of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), SEARCH rotations gave health professions students (physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, dentists and all

mental health providers) the opportunity to undertake community-based clinical rotations under the supervision of local providers in rural and underserved communities. These opportunities to train away from academic campuses have been invaluable in introducing students to practice locations supported by federal and state loan repayment programs. The NHSC alone has 6600 unfilled job opportunities. Dr. Duke's explanation for the failure to honor two years of a five year agreement was budget difficulties.

Twenty-one states had SEARCH programs and those programs are seeking a return of the federal appropriation. The Virginia SEARCH program was based at Virginia Commonwealth University as part of the Virginia Area Health Education Center program. Participating local organizations were the Capital, Southside, South Central, Southwest and Rappahannock AHEC's. Since 2004, 92 primary care rotations totaling 540 weeks of instruction were supported in Virginia's rural and underserved communities. This program loss will make it even more difficult for Virginia to compete with the comprehensive exposure and support programs of neighboring states. Individuals seeking more information should contact Jane Wills at the Rappahannock Rural Health Development Center, (804) 333-3733.

Virginia Rural Health Association Conference

The Virginia Rural Health Association will hold its [annual statewide conference](#) November 6 and 7 at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel in Staunton. The conference theme, "Moving from Plan to Action," sets the stage for presentations about models of care, innovative approaches and useful tools and technologies for addressing rural health care needs.

By focusing on collaborations and direct input from those working and living in rural environments, the hope is that the conference will help guide and shape the Virginia State Rural Health Plan.

VCOM Students Provide Free Health Care in Jonesville, VA, Birthplace of A.T. Still

On Saturday, May 10, 30 students and two doctors from VCOM hosted a health fair in the rural town of Jonesville in far Southwest Virginia. The students provided free physicals, hearing, vision, cholesterol and glucose screenings to over 60 parents and their families.



Free sports physicals were given to a number of students in preparation for the sports season in the summer and fall. While the students were getting their physicals, the parents were educated about preventative health measures and the preparation of health snacks and meals for their families. Students also offered information concerning health insurance, nutrition and osteoporosis. Children were entertained with balloons and coloring stations that promoted wellness.

Healthy students were rewarded for their good health with balloons, face painting and free helmets provided by the PEDS and Emergency Medicine clubs at VCOM.



VCOM was successful in educating the community of Jonesville about Osteopathy and the practice of OMM. Osteopathic Manipulation was also demonstrated and a number of participants raved, "This is the only reason I came to the health fair-after feeling so much better after I had my back manipulated last year by a student doctor." Another person's reaction was startling as he exclaimed to one of VCOM's doctors, "This is awesome, this is the best my back has ever felt and you need to move down here and open a practice!"

The annual event was a huge success and has already been scheduled to take place again in 2009.

VCU's 2nd Program of Excellence Award

Congratulations to Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Medicine's Student Family Medicine Association (SFMA). For the second consecutive year, the student group is the recipient of the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) Network Program of Excellence (PoE) Award. Each year, Family Medicine Interest Groups are recognized by the American Association of Family Physicians (AAFP) for their efforts to stimulate interest in family medicine and family medicine programming. The award is presented to 10 medical schools that exhibit exemplary efforts in *all* of the following areas: community outreach/patient advocacy, family medicine advocacy, infrastructure and student involvement/student retention. The award was received by Kiila Tolerson and Sarah Corley, Co-Presidents, in Kansas City, MO at the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students on July 31, 2009. Gay Olsen, PhD is faculty advisor for the SFMA organization.



VCU's Department of Family Medicine Receives New Federal Grant to Enhance and Expand the Inner City/Rural Preceptorship Program

The Department of Family Medicine at the VCU School of Medicine recently received a federal grant to expand and enhance its existing [Inner City/Rural Preceptorship \(ICRP\) program](#). Founded by Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook over a decade ago with the support of grant money from the federal government, the IC/RP program is a well-established program which has the full support of the School of Medicine.

In July of 2008, the Department of Family Medicine was awarded a new federal grant in order to enhance and expand the IC/RP program, and the International/Inner City/Rural Preceptorship (I2CRP) program was born. The mission of the I2CRP program, the same as those of the IC/RP program, is to both increase the numbers of health professionals serving the underserved and also to better prepare medical students for this work. As the name change implies, the grant funds will allow the department to expand the program to include an international component. Much has been written recently regarding the increase in medical student interest in work abroad and how these students who work internationally are also more likely to serve the underserved within the states as well. In addition to expanding geographically, the new I2CRP program will provide an enhanced academic experience by updating the program goals and objectives, through revising the core educational sessions, and providing increased mentorship for students as they complete their final project during the fourth year. Finally, enrollment can be expanded to have at least 20 students per year involved in the program. For questions or comments, please contact Gay Olsen, PhD, I2CRP Director or Steve Crossman, MD, I2CRP Medical Director at (804) 828-9626.

